

STATINTL

Modernizing Our Intelligence Corps

It's a pretty sad thing that it took the Cuban invasion fiasco to inform us about the weaknesses of our intelligence system. In the long run, however, this lesson may be invaluable. Certainly it is better to have learned it from this incident than to have found out from fatal blunders in a big war.

There still is no disposition on anyone's part to lay the blame on Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles, who has been both a devoted and competent public servant.

The weakness appears to have been structural and organizational, rather than one of poor personnel.

IT IS ALWAYS the evaluation of intelligence material, rather than the gathering of it, which is the key to the usefulness of the information.

A conspicuous example of this was failure during the Korean War properly to evaluate the information that Red China would enter the fighting if the United Nations forces crossed the 38th Parallel. The information was discounted, the line was crossed, and Red China was in the war.

At present Mr. Dulles not only is the operational head of the CIA, but is also the chief evaluator of all intelligence data. No matter how detached and objective a man might be

in such a dual capacity, inevitably he would be inclined to give greater weight to the information gathered by his agency than would an individual who had nothing to do with the administration of the intelligence operation.

One of the great strengths of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been J. Edgar Hoover's insistence that in such matters as security and counter-espionage, his agency merely collected the intelligence, for others to evaluate.

THIS IS ONE OF the main changes now to be made in revamping our whole intelligence setup. The new chief evaluator and principal intelligence adviser to the President will have nothing to do with operating the CIA.

It still apparently has not been decided whether to remove the "dirty tricks department" from CIA, and place it under the Pentagon. In any event this phase — of which direction of the Cuban invasion was a part — will certainly be more carefully controlled than formerly.

With the Defense Department now also engaged in revising its intelligence activities, indications are that we are going to have a far stronger system than ever before. In the present state of the world, nothing could be of greater importance.